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The work is particularly valuable to students of minimum-wage legislation because of the complicated problems presented by the clothing industry to the application of a legal minimum on account of the various methods of manufacture (factory, workshop, and home work) and the wide extent of the industry, creating diverse interests within the industry based on method of manufacture and on location, and because of the intricate and unstandardized character of the industry and the prevalence of the piecework-payment system.

The work takes up the organization, work, and administrative problems of the Tailoring Trade Board and the effect of the establishment of the minimum upon general working conditions, wages, trade unionism, prices, and profits, on the workers, management, employment, and home work. Some of the more important conclusions are:

1. Approximately 38 per cent or more of the women and 24 per cent of the men pieceworkers have had their wages increased.
2. Trade unionism has received an impetus due to the desire of the better-paid workers to obtain an increase commensurate with that received by the low-paid workers, and to a striking improvement in *morale* among the low-paid workers because the Trade Board has given hope to workers who were previously hopeless.
3. There is little evidence that the minimum tends to become the maximum and considerable evidence to the contrary.
4. Prices of clothing have not risen more than in previous years and there is no rise attributable to the minimum wage.
5. Some speeding up has occurred, but in many cases there has been a spontaneous increase in workers' efficiency.
6. The minimum has caused employers to introduce improvements in organization and machinery with substantial benefits to both manufacturer and worker.
7. Some firms have dismissed workers on the ground that they were not worth the minimum, but the number so dismissed has not been large and many regained work almost immediately.
8. Considerable evasion of the act appears to exist among home workers due to inadequate inspection.

Although manifesting sympathy with minimum-wage legislation, the work is judicial and impartial in tone. Conclusions are arrived at cautiously. The author frankly admits that conclusions based on only two years' experience must be tentative. The work is a scholarly and distinctly valuable contribution to our knowledge of the administrative problems and the effects of minimum-wage legislation.

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*Central Europe.* By FRIEDRICH NAUMANN. London: P. S. King & Son, 1916. 8vo, pp. xix+354. 7s. 6d.

All the oratory and the enthusiasm that have marked his rise to his present position as one of the most-read political authors of Germany today have

been brought by Herr Naumann to his present task—that of spreading the gospel of a great Central European organization at the close of the present conflict. Just what form this organization is to assume is not clear. But its purposes will be commercial, industrial, and military.

The nucleus of the organization is to consist of the German Empire and Austria-Hungary. To this nucleus will be added the Balkans, Turkey, and the present neutral states to the north of the empire. Thus a combination will be effected that comprises a great stretch of territory through the heart of Europe, binding the members together with ties of common interest. At the same time the enemies of the empire will be separated.

The major part of the book is taken up with discussion of the difficulties in the way of a union of the empire and the dual monarchy. The author realizes that the sovereignty of each state must be preserved; and that that may be done, works out a scheme of joint commissions which shall carry out the wishes of the several governments. The tariff problem is recognized also. Free trade is seen to be outside the thought of present practical politics; so a scheme of preferences is hit upon as sufficient to protect the members of the alliance against outsiders, yet of such character as to develop the resources of each country within the group and to make the organization a self-sufficing and a united economic area.

In spite of the statement that the joint commissions shall hold no power over the whole organization, and that each member of the Mid-European organization shall be independent of the union except in matters of moment to all, the impression creeps out now and then that this is after all to be some sort of federation with the empire as the pivotal point. "Mid-Europe will have a German nucleus, will invariably use the German language"; and "a type of Mid-European may be worked out, including all elements of culture and strength, the bearer of a civilization of rich and varied content growing up around the German nationality."

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*English and American Tool Builders.* By JOSEPH WICKHAM ROE.

New Haven: Yale University Press, 1916. 8vo, pp. xv+315.  
\$3.00 net.

The growth of the factory system into its present status has been dependent to no small degree on the development of machinery. This is a well-recognized fact; but, strange as it may seem, comparatively little attention has been paid to the fact that the building of accurate machinery has been made possible only by the development of machine tools. The work of such men as Maudslay, Naysmyth, and Eli Whitney has been taken for granted, and their inventions are used day after day, wherever machinery is being made, without thought of the men whose ingenuity brought them into being.

The author's purpose in producing this book is "to bring out the importance of the work and influence of the great tool-builders." The early English and